

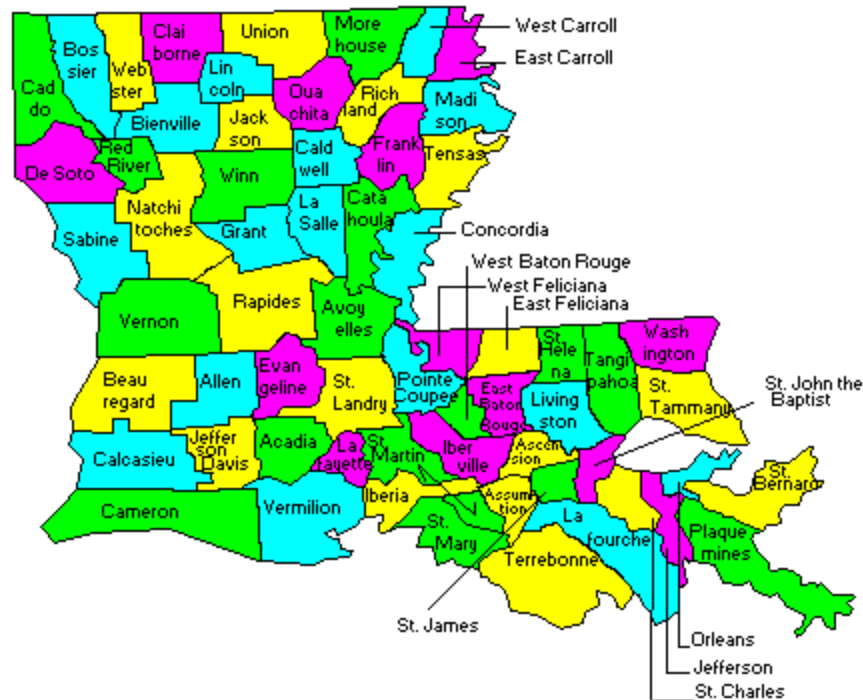
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Louisiana

Profile of Drug Indicators

August 2000



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Louisiana

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

- Population: 4,372,035 (1999 Estimate); 4,219,973 (1990 Census)
- Race/Ethnicity: 67.0% white; 31.0% African American; 0.4% American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut; 1.0% Asian/Pacific Islander; 0.5% other race; 2.2% Hispanic

Politics²

- Governor: M.J. “Mike” Foster
- Lieutenant Governor: Kathleen Babineaux Blanco
- Attorney General: Richard P. Ieyoub
- Secretary of State: Fox McKeithen
- U.S. Senate: John Breaux (D), Mary Landrieu (D)
- U.S. Representatives (Districts 1-7, respectively): David Vitter; William J. Jefferson; W.J. Tauzin; Jim McCrery; John Cooksey; Richard H. Baker; Christopher John.

Programs/Initiatives

- Executive Office of Weed and Seed³
 - Shreveport: The Target Area of Shreveport’s Weed and Seed program is Highland Park and Stone Hill. Within these areas, the population is approximately 12,500 and the per capita income here is around \$9,000. In the community policing area, bike patrols continue to be one of the most successful programs of the operation. There is also a motorcycle officer gun and drug abatement program. Activities in this area have been developed to try to reduce violent and property crime associated with drugs, gang activity, and repeat offenders.
 - New Orleans: The Target Area within this city is the Lafitte public housing complex. Law enforcement strategies within this area focus on the suppression of street corner drug dealing and the arrest and prosecution of those responsible. Two operations are key in this endeavor: street-corner drug activity reduction and removal of chronic violent offenders from the Target Area.
- Drug-Free Communities Support Program FY99⁴

During FY99 there were not any Drug-Free Communities Support Program grants awarded in Louisiana.
- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)⁵

The Gulfcoast HIDTA was designated in 1996 and includes 12 counties/parishes in Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi. These three states serve as a gateway for drugs entering the U.S. through 7 deep-water ports and over 8,000 miles of largely unpatrolled coastlines and waterways. Many traffickers use this area as a staging or transit zone for drugs destined to other parts of the U.S. Violent drug trafficking organizations and a recent growth in methamphetamine traffic have contributed to a serious localized drug problem. Forty-nine agencies participate in initiatives funded by the Gulfcoast HIDTA.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- Within the Gulfcoast HIDTA's area, there are approximately 380 identified drug trafficking organizations.⁶
- In 1997, 79% of homicides in New Orleans were drug-related, compared with 55% in 1996.⁷
- In 1998, 3,272 juveniles were arrested for drug abuse violations in Louisiana.⁸

Arrests in Louisiana, 1998

| Offense | Juveniles | Total |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|--------|
| Murder and non-negligent manslaughter | 56 | 479 |
| Forcible rape | 88 | 504 |
| Robbery | 506 | 2,374 |
| Aggravated assault | 1,570 | 10,577 |
| Burglary | 2,291 | 7,643 |
| Larceny-theft | 7,954 | 29,168 |
| Motor vehicle theft | 534 | 1,360 |
| Arson | 97 | 302 |
| Drug abuse violations | 3,272 | 24,620 |
| Driving Under the Influence | 217 | 14,351 |
| Liquor laws | 712 | 3,611 |

- In 1999, 69.2% of the 913 adult male arrestees sampled, and 58.6% of the 374 adult female arrestees sampled in New Orleans tested positive for drugs at the time of their arrest.⁹

Percent Positive for Drugs, by Drug and Offense Type, New Orleans, 1999

| Offense Type | Cocaine | | Marijuana | | Any Drug | |
|--------------|---------|------|-----------|------|----------|-------|
| | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| Violent | 31.7 | 17.0 | 38.2 | 17.0 | 60.2 | 32.1 |
| Property | 46.3 | 44.7 | 38.0 | 22.4 | 70.4 | 58.8 |
| Drug | 52.8 | 54.8 | 50.5 | 41.9 | 85.2 | 75.8 |
| Sales | 53.1 | 50.0 | 50.0 | 25.0 | 81.3 | 50.0 |
| Possession | 53.4 | 55.0 | 50.3 | 43.3 | 86.0 | 76.7 |
| Prostitution | 100.0 | 80.0 | 0.0 | 33.3 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Other | 40.3 | 37.2 | 36.4 | 20.7 | 63.1 | 54.3 |

Drugs

- Within the Gulfcoast HIDTA's area, the drug of choice is marijuana, but cocaine and crack have created the greatest social, economic, and violent crime impact. Also, methamphetamine lab activity has dramatically increased in the past 2 years, especially in the northern areas of the 3 states included in the Gulfcoast HIDTA.¹⁰
- Cocaine/Crack¹¹
The New Orleans area continues to be plagued by the widespread availability of both cocaine hydrochloride (HCl) and crack cocaine.

➤ Heroin¹²

Heroin indicators are increasing in the New Orleans area. This increase may be partly attributed to crack cocaine users seeking to relieve the harsh effects of crack through heroin. While injection remains the primary method of use, inner-city younger users seem to prefer to snort the drug. According to the DEA, Colombian (yellow and white), Southeast Asian (white), and Mexican (mostly brown) heroin are available in the New Orleans area.

➤ Methamphetamine¹³

Methamphetamine availability has increased in the New Orleans area. The majority of methamphetamine originates in California. However, the increase in availability can be traced to Mexican polydrug organizations that target the U.S. and are replacing motorcycle gangs as the dominant producers. These Mexican organizations are much more efficient, and they manufacture a greater quantity of high-purity methamphetamine.

➤ Depressants¹⁴

Rohypnol and GHB indicators are increasing in the New Orleans area. The DEA reports that these drugs are being obtained in Mexican border towns, smuggled into southern Texas, and then shipped into southeast Louisiana and New Orleans via overnight express mail. Reports indicate increased availability of GHB in both liquid and powder forms. A cocktail known as “MAX,” consisting of GHB mixed with amphetamine in an alcoholic drink, is very popular in New Orleans. Rohypnol is most popular among white, upper-middle-class high school and college students. The DEA also reported that ketamine use is on the rise in New Orleans.

Juveniles

- A 1999 survey of high school students in Louisiana indicated that 40.5% of them had used marijuana at least once in their lifetime.¹⁵

Percent of Louisiana* High School Students Using Selected Drugs, 1999

| Drug Use and Type | Female | Male | Total |
|--|--------|------|-------|
| Lifetime Marijuana Use (1) | 35.0 | 46.1 | 40.5 |
| Current Marijuana Use (2) | 14.5 | 26.2 | 20.2 |
| Lifetime Cocaine Use | 5.0 | 8.8 | 6.8 |
| Current Cocaine Use | 1.6 | 4.9 | 3.2 |
| Lifetime Inhalant Use | 14.6 | 12.9 | 13.8 |
| Current Inhalant Use | 3.2 | 4.3 | 3.7 |
| Lifetime Heroin Use | 0.9 | 6.0 | 3.4 |
| Lifetime Methamphetamine Use | 6.8 | 10.9 | 8.9 |
| Lifetime Illegal Steroid Use | 3.0 | 8.4 | 5.6 |
| Lifetime Injected Illegal Drug Use (3) | 1.1 | 5.0 | 3.0 |

1. Lifetime Use = ever tried drug in life

2. Current Use = used drug one or more times in last 30 days before survey

3. Used a needle to inject drug(s)

* Dose not include one of Louisiana's larger school districts

Trafficking and Seizures

- In 1998 there were 5,760 marijuana plants eradicated in Louisiana.¹⁶
- In November of 1999 deputies arrested 101 alleged street-level crack dealers and obtained warrants for another 78 near New Orleans. Agents from the FBI, DEA and local police assisted the sheriff's office in their efforts. These arrests stemmed from the Jefferson Parish sheriff's "Project STAR," a street-crimes unit which targets drug-infested neighborhoods and crime problems on the community level. Since Project Star's inception in 1994, it has been able to make approximately 4,000 cases against alleged drug traffickers, involving the arrests of well over 1,500 suspects.¹⁷
- From Calendar Year 1991 to CY 1995, the number of methamphetamine/amphetamine seizures in Louisiana jumped from 855 doses seized to 32,100 doses seized.¹⁸

Enforcement

- Gulfcoast HIDTA Initiatives¹⁹
 - Louisiana Operations Center: This initiative is located in Metairie and includes numerous enforcement teams. Such teams include the following:
 - Major Investigations Team (MIT): targets major drug trafficking organizations operating in the greater New Orleans area.
 - Mobile Deployment Team (MDT): targets local drug trafficking/distribution organizations operating in area neighborhoods and also coordinates highway interdiction operations.
 - Financial Investigations Team (FIT): targets drug smuggling/money laundering activities.
 - Middle Louisiana Drug Task Force: This initiative targets major trafficking organizations operating in the East Baton Rouge Parish area.
 - Caddo/Bossier HIDTA Task Force: This task force targets major trafficking organizations operating in the Shreveport area. This task force also engages in special interdiction operations at commercial terminals.
- As of October 31, 1998 there were 1,494 full-time law enforcement employees in Louisiana.²⁰

Courts

- Drug Courts:²¹
 - According to data from March 2000, there were 37 drug courts in Louisiana that were either already operating or were being planned.
 - Seven of these drug courts have been operating for over 2 years.
 - 23 of the above mentioned 37 drug courts have recently been implemented.
 - As of March 2000, there were seven drug courts being planned in Louisiana.
- Violent Crime/Drug Offender Prosecution Program²²

This program is geared toward the prosecution of the career criminal involved in narcotics activity.
- In 1998, 37.6% of the total number of Federally sentenced offenders in Louisiana courts were sentenced for drug offenses. The majority of these (34.7%) had committed a trafficking offense.²³

- 96% of those convicted of drug trafficking were incarcerated. Of those convicted of simple possession, the majority (44.4%) was sentenced to probation.²⁴

Drug Offenses, by Type of Drug, Louisiana, 1998²⁵

| Drug Type | Number of Offenses | Percent of Total |
|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Powder Cocaine | 107 | 35.4 |
| Crack Cocaine | 125 | 41.3 |
| Heroin | 11 | 3.6 |
| Marijuana | 32 | 10.5 |
| Methamphetamine | 11 | 3.6 |
| Other Drug | 15 | 4.9 |

Corrections

- From 1997 to 1998 the amount of prisoners in Louisiana increased 10.1% from 29,265 at yearend 1997 to 32,227 at advance yearend 1998.²⁶
- Among states, Louisiana had the highest prison incarceration rate (736 sentenced inmates per 100,000 residents).²⁷
- At the end of 1999 (December 31), Louisiana had 35,118 adults on probation. At the beginning of 1999 (January 1), there had been 33,028. These numbers represent a 6.3% increase in Louisiana's adult probation population for 1999.²⁸
- Louisiana's adult parole population at the end of 1999 totaled 21,904. This is a 16.8% increase in Louisiana's adult parole population from the beginning of the year when there were 18,759 adults on parole.²⁹

Consequences of Use

- In 1998, there were 2,396 cocaine mentions in emergency departments (ED) in New Orleans.³⁰

Estimated Number of ED Drug Mentions, by Drug Type, New Orleans, 1998

| Cocaine | Heroin/ Morphine | Marijuana/ Hashish | Methamphetamine/ Speed |
|---------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 2,396 | 534 | 1,196 | 25 |

- The total number of drug-related deaths in New Orleans in 1998 was 191 this was up 9.8% from 174 in 1997.³¹

Drugs Mentioned in Drug-Related Deaths, New Orleans, 1998

| Drug Type | Times Mentioned |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Cocaine | 78 |
| Heroin/Morphine | 62 |
| Marijuana/Hashish | 51 |
| Methadone | 7 |
| Methamphetamine/Speed | -- |
| PCP/PCP combinations | 1 |
| TOTAL DRUG MENTIONS | 451 |

Treatment³²

- In 1997 there were 1,834 people admitted to treatment in New Orleans with cocaine as their primary drug of abuse.

People Admitted to Treatment, by Drug of Choice, New Orleans, 1997

| Type of Drug | Number | Percent |
|--------------------------|--------|---------|
| Amphetamine | 27 | <1 |
| Cocaine | 1,834 | 29 |
| Hallucinogens | 3 | <1 |
| Heroin | 632 | 10 |
| Inhalants | 3 | <1 |
| Marijuana/Hashish | 1,754 | 27 |
| Non-Rx Methadone | 19 | <1 |
| Other Opiates/synthetics | 187 | 3 |
| PCP | 209 | 3 |

- 54% of those admitted to New Orleans treatment facilities in 1997 were black males.

Race/Gender of Treatment Admissions, New Orleans, 1995-97

| Race/Gender | 1995 | | 1996 | | 1997 | |
|----------------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| Males | | | | | | |
| Black | 3,799 | 53 | 2,979 | 49 | 3,400 | 54 |
| White | 1,645 | 23 | 1,311 | 21 | 1,132 | 18 |
| Females | | | | | | |
| Black | 1,165 | 16 | 949 | 15 | 2,113 | 18 |
| White | 585 | 8 | 886 | 15 | 613 | 10 |

Sources

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- ³ Executive Office of Weed and Seed Web site: <http://www.weedseed.org/site.asp>
- ⁴ Drug-Free Communities Support Program: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/prevent/drugfree.html>
- ⁵ HIDTA Web site: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta/gulf-fs.html>
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- ⁷ CEWG, *Epidemiologic Trends in Drug Abuse*, January 1999: <http://www.cdmgroup.com/cewg>
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- ²⁵ Ibid.
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